

Brought to you by your livestock specialists.....



Shawn Deering, Gentry
 (660)-726-5610
 deerings@missouri.edu



Amie Schleicher, Atchison
 (660)-744-6231
 schleichera@missouri.edu



Jim Humphrey, Andrew
 (816)-324-3147
 humphreyjr@missouri.edu

DATES TO

REMEMBER:

- **December 25—**
MU Extension
Offices Closed
for Christmas
Holiday
- **January 1—MU**
Extension Offic-
es closed for
New Years Holi-
day
- **January 14—**
Three State
Beef Confer-
ence, Albany

2014 Farm Bill: Decisions for Producers

Several meetings are scheduled throughout the nw extension region this month.

Date	Time	Location	Contact
Dec 8, Monday	9-11 am	Kingston, Farm Services Agency Building	816-586-2711
Dec 11, Thursday	10-2 pm	Bethany, Bethany Community Center	660-425-6434
Dec 12, Friday	1-4 pm	Savannah, First Christian Church	816-279-1691
Dec 15, Monday	9 am to Noon	Richmond, VFW Hall	816-776-6961
Dec 15, Monday	1-4 pm	Maryville, Nodaway County Administration Bldg	660-582-8101
Dec 17, Wednesday	9 am to Noon	Concordia, Concordia Community Center	660-584-3658
Dec 17, Wednesday	9 am to Noon	Mound City, Extreme Fireworks Building	660-582-8101
Dec 17, Wednesday	1-4 pm	Rock Port, Velma Houts Building	660-582-8101

Red books now available - little book, small price, big value!

Keeping records is more important than ever. That's where one of the little red calving books can come in handy. These pocket-sized books contain more than 100 pages to record calving activity, herd health, pasture usage, cattle inventory, and much more, plus they include a calendar so you won't forget birthdays, anniversaries...or even MU Extension meetings!

Several MU Extension offices are selling red books (typically around \$5). Contact your regional livestock specialist or local extension office for availability and price.



How Much Hay Do You Waste?

It's that time of year when northwest Missouri beef producers start feeding hay. It is no secret that winter feeding costs have risen drastically over the last decade and it is estimated that forage waste during winter feeding costs Missouri beef producers in excess of \$60 million annually. Dr. Justin Sexten, MU State Extension Beef Nutrition Specialist, and Wesley Moore, MU Animal Science Graduate Student, conducted an experiment to see how hay feeder design affected hay waste. They looked at three different feeder designs (open, sheeted, cone) that are pictured to the right. Their findings are below:

Percentage Hay Waste by Feeder Design			
	Open	Sheeted	Cone
Fescue Hay	19.2	13.6	8.9
Alfafla Haylage	7.0	4.9	6.5
Corn Stover	38.7	32.0	13.6
Ammoniated Corn Stover	37.9	20.6	13.6





KSU Focus on Feedlots Report

Kansas State University Extension recently released their September 2014 closeout information in their latest Focus on Feedlots report which includes data from ten different Kansas feedlots. The 20,906 steers averaged 1407 pounds, 165 days on feed, 3.73 average daily gain, 5.84 feed/gain dry basis, 1.24% death loss and \$91.49 average cost of gain. The 36,028 heifers averaged 1238 pounds, 161 days on feed, 3.24 average daily gain, 6.19 feed/gain dry basis, 1.26% death loss, and \$97.89 average cost of gain.



QB has now harvested over 850 head of cattle with complete data on 741 head. One big thing to note is that average profit per head on the 741 head is \$298.96. Remember, these are the feeder cattle that sold for such high prices that many thought profits were impossible! Before deciding that your calves are too high priced to feed, make sure you have the correct facts and figures. If the same person keeps coming back to buy your cattle every year, do they know more about them than you do? The two main profit drivers in this data set are quality grade and average daily gain.

	Prime	# Of Head	CAB	# Of Head	NAB	# Of Head	Bottom 1/2 Low Choice	# Of Head	Select	# Of Head
Avg. Profit	\$443.27	49	\$298.96	315	\$303.97	148	\$303.69	140	\$235.02	89
↑ 4 lbs. ADG	\$584.63	4	\$429.04	45	\$427.97	36	\$433.16	31	\$342.51	19
3.5-3.99 ADG	\$512.72	11	\$363.91	78	\$342.21	51	\$348.97	53	\$300.45	19
3.0-3.49 ADG	\$419.06	25	\$285.96	116	\$242.99	38	\$253.29	35	\$230.12	35
2.5-2.49 ADG	\$378.51	9	\$224.35	53	\$159.66	17	\$206.50	15	\$135.51	12
2.0-2.49 ADG			\$120.36	14	\$22.57	4	\$190.94	3	(\$143.29)	1
↓ 2 lbs. ADG			(\$17.30)	9	(\$76.83)	2	(\$388.45)	3	(\$191.89)	3
		6.6%		43%		20%		19%		12%

??Question of the Week??

I was thinking about keeping some of my open spring-calving cows and breeding them for fall calves. Is that a bad idea?

The conventional school of thought is to cull open cows. However, given the price of replacement heifers, bred heifers and cows, it might be something to consider. That's especially true if you already have a fall-calving herd or were thinking about starting one. Even if you didn't want to calve them, they would probably bring a premium if you sold them as bred cows as opposed to taking them to the barn and weighing them up. We would suggest only keeping back those that were young or probably came up open due to high milk production and weaning a big calf.

Northwest Region Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource Contacts

Agronomy

Wayne Flanary
(660)-446-3724
flanaryw@missouri.edu

Heather Benedict
(660)-425-6434
benedicth@missouri.edu

Wyatt Miller
(816)-776-6961
millerww@missouri.edu

Natural Resources

Jim Crawford
(660)-744-6231
crawfordj@missouri.edu

Horticulture

Tom Fowler
(816)-279-1691
fowlert@missouri.edu

Tim Baker
(660)-663-3232
bakert@missouri.edu

Agriculture Business

Bob Kelly
(816)-279-1691
kellyr@missouri.edu

Randa Doty
(660)-582-8101
dotyr@missouri.edu

Whitney Wiegel
(660)-584-3658
wiegelw@missouri.edu